

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4 and 5 as shown below. Please cancel Claims 2 and 3 and add new Claims 6 to 8. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bus control method for a bus, which is provided with a switch having a plurality of master ports for connecting a plurality of masters and a plurality of slave ports for connecting a plurality of slaves, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the switch can connect each of the plurality of masters ~~master ports~~ to an arbitrary ~~port~~ one of the plurality of ~~slave ports~~ slaves, said method comprising:

an address phase in which a master initiates a transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, and the master issues an address and a command; and

a data phase in which the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection made in the address phase, and the slave issues read return data, the data phase being ~~[[is]]~~ separated from the address phase ~~and issues write data,~~

wherein, before the data phase is completed, an address phase of a next transaction can be issued ~~before the data phase is completed.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The bus control method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein

a start signal ~~of a~~ for initiating the transaction is used also as a request signal for the switch request for connecting with the slave.

5. (Currently Amended) A bus system comprising:

a plurality of masters;

a plurality of slaves; and

a bus that is provided with a switch,

which wherein the switch can connect each of [[a]] the plurality of master ports masters and an arbitrary port one of [[a]] the plurality of slave ports slaves in an address phase and in a data phase, wherein

wherein, in the [[an]] address phase, phase that a master initiates a transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, and the master issues an address and a command, and

wherein, in the [[a]] data phase that issues write data are separated, and phase, the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection

made in the address phase, and the slave issues read return data, the data phase being separated from the address phase, and

wherein, before the data phase is completed, an address phase of a next transaction can be issued ~~before the data phase is completed.~~

6. (New) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein a start signal for initiating data return in the data phase is used also as a request signal for the switch request for connecting with the master.

7. (New) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein the next transaction is a transaction from another master to the slave.

8. (New) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein the next transaction is a transaction from the master to another slave.